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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): NINOMIYA, et al.
Serial No.: 09/874,276
Filed: June 6, 2001
For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING A POLYOL

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231


August 9, 2001

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to examination thereof, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph from page 3, line 11 to page 4, line 4 after formula (v), and substitute therefor the following new paragraph:

A,  When an aliphatic aldehyde is used as the extracting reagent, the yield of the extracted polyol increases and the fraction of the removed salt of formic acid also increases. For example, a process in which butyraldehyde is used as the extracting reagent is described in Japanese Patent Application Publication Heisei 4(1992)-17169. In accordance with this process, the amount of a salt of formic acid remaining in the extracted and separated polyol can be suppressed to 0.3% or less. However, although the continuous distillation of this crude polyol can be conducted, a great amount of acetals are